

CARDIAC THERAPY. By Harold J. Stewart, M.D. (Pp. x + 622; figs. 68. 75s.). London: Cassell. 1953.

THE opening chapter of this book by a well-known cardiologist gives a general account of the therapy of congestive cardiac failure. This is followed by chapters on the use of mercurial diuretics, digitalis, and anticoagulants. Subsequent chapters are devoted to consideration of the ætiology, pathology, clinical features, treatment, and prognosis of the various pathological conditions, common and uncommon, which affect the heart. The range of subjects covered is wide—a complete chapter is devoted to glosso-pharyngeal neuralgia associated with cardiac arrest. Each chapter is followed by a bibliography, in which British work is not entirely neglected. The reviewer was surprised to find no mention of the work of the Manchester School in the chapter on Heart Disease in Pregnancy.

When debatable subjects are dealt with, e.g., anticoagulant therapy, the author does not hesitate to express his own views.

The information on therapy is up to date, and includes an account of the surgery of mitral stenosis and pulmonary stenosis. Although a detailed account is given of the application of therapeutic measures, old and recent, emphasis is rightly placed on the management of the patient. There are many remarks indicating that the author has observed the patient as well as the disease. Thus in the chapter on myocardial infarction he states: "Patients may use the episode to reassess their life's accomplishments and future hopes, and, by freeing themselves of useless activities, enter upon one of the most productive and satisfying periods of their careers."

This is not a book for the undergraduate; it can, however, be thoroughly recommended to all physicians interested in cardio-vascular disease. F. P.

CLINICAL APPROACH TO FEVERS. By C. J. McSweeney, M.D., F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H., Medical Superintendent of the House of Recovery and Fever Hospital, Cork Street, Dublin. (Pp. vi + 146. 10s. 6d.). London: Churchill. 1953.

THIS is a transcript of Dr. McSweeney's lectures to post-graduate students delivered in a characteristically conversational manner. It contains much of his personal experience in infectious diseases over many years. He shows the progress in prophylaxis and control, developments in diagnosis, and the results of modern treatment which have so materially altered the picture of this branch of medicine.

The laboratory aids to the diagnosis of smallpox are more to be commended than he admits. Some have found bulbar palsy quite frequently in the under 10 year group. Few people really doubt the association of the *Hæmophilus influenzae* as the cause of influenzal meningitis.

The book is without any diagrams or illustrations, and is thereby probably more easily read. There are a few errors in typescript, but the volume achieves its end in transmitting in easy fashion the author's rich acquaintance of his subject. F. F. K.

AIDS TO PATHOLOGY. By John O. Oliver, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.). Tenth edition. (Pp. vii + 343; figs. 16. 8s. 6d.). London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox. 1953.

THIS attempt to compress almost everything described in larger students' text-books into a thin volume of 337 small text pages is in many ways useful and highly informative. Many teachers will admire the skill with which the author summarises the subject and on the whole an excellent balance is preserved. For those who have already studied the subject, and for those who cannot or will not read their lecture notes, it should prove useful for revision. The descriptions are, however, stimuli to the memory rather than adequate in themselves and the student working at the subject should follow his lectures and practical work with a larger and more detailed text-book. Nevertheless, he will find much information and much to refresh his memory by perusal of this handy pocket-sized book. J. E. M.